

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301421Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5358

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AOEMBASSY MOSCOW 1861

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20834

E.O. 11652: GDS

ZTAGS: PFOR PGOV WB DA

SUBJECT: DANISH MILITARY MISSION IN WEST BERLIN

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECENTLY EXPRESSED TO DANISH AMBASSADOR OLDENBURG OUR CONCERN AT REPORTS THAT THE DANES MAY BE DOWNGRADING THEIR MILITARY MISSION IN BERLIN. AMBASSADOR OLDENBURG GAVE UP HIS RESIDENCE IN BERLIN EARLY IN 1975. MORE RECENTLY, THE DANES HAVE REFRAINED FROM NAMING A REPLACEMENT FOR JORGEN SCAVENIUS, WHO AY DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION (WITH RANK OF COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY) HAD SPENT NEARLY SEVEN YEARS IN BERLIN AS OF THE TIME OF HIS TRANSFER IN THE LATE FALL. AS "DOYEN" OF THE MILITARY MISSION-CONSULAR CORPS IN BERLIN FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, SCAVZNIUS WAS WELL KNOWN AND THE LACK OF A REPLACEMENT IS ALL THE MORE NOTICEABLE.

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2. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE GROWING SOVIET AND

EAST EUROPEAN CONSULAR PRESENCE IN WEST BERLIN AND STRESSED THE VALUE WHICH WE PLACE ON THE NATO SOLIDARITY WHICH IS SHOWN BY THE PRESENCE OF A COMPETENT WESTERN DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE ADDED THAT THE US WOULD REGRET IT VERY MUCH IF DENMARK SHOULD FIND IT NECESSARY TO DOWNGRADE ITS REPRESENTATION IN WEST BERLIN.

3. OLDENBURG RESPONDED THAT, SPEAKING FRANKLY, NOT REPLACING SCAVENIUS WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF SAVING SOME MONEY. HE THOUGHT THE DECISION OF HIS GOVERNMENT WAS FIRM BUT HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF WHAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD SAID.

4. COMMENT: UNLIKE THE NORWEGIANS, THE DANES HAVE NOT YET REMOVED ALL OF THEIR CAREER OFFICERS FROM THEIR WEST BERLIN MISSION. THERE REMAIN A CONSUL (MRS. WASSERMANN) AND A COMMERCIAL SECRETARY. THE OPENING OF EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN HAS REMOVED MOST OF THE POLITICAL REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES FROM WESTERN CONSULATES AND MILITARY MISSIONS IN WEST BERLIN, AND WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE ANISH DECISION -- IF A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN -- TO ECONOMIZE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WOULD REGRET IT IF OTHER NATO ALLIES SHOULD OVER TIME FOLLOW THE NORWEGIAN AND DANISH PATTERNS. (AT PRESENT, SEVEN OF THE NATO ALLIES STILL HAVE REPRESENTATION IN WEST BERLIN: THE BELGIAN, CANADIAN, DANISH, GREEK, AND NETHERLANDS MILITARY MISSIONS AND THE ITALIAN AND TURKISH CONSULATES GENERAL.)

5. THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH, THEREFORE, AT SOME SUITABLE OCCASION TO MAKE A SUPPORTING DEMARCHE TO THE DANES OR TO REQUEST EMBASSY COPENHAGEN TO DO SO.  
HILLENBRAND

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